13th May 1954]

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister issue instructions to the heads of offices that the prescribed hours of work should be strictly enforced, and that the officers should not ask the clerical staff to attend office during out of office hours? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is what is usually done."

Payment of travelling allowance to the midwives working in rural dispensaries of Modern Medicine.

* 48 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the midwives working in rural dispensaries of Modern Medicine are paid any travelling allowance and whether the expenditure is met by Government or local bodies;

(*b*) whether similar travelling allowance is paid to midwives working in rural dispensaries of Indigenous Medicine, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(*c*) whether there is any difference in the training or qualifications prescribed for the midwives employed in the different dispensaries cited in clauses (*a*) and (*b*) above?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Maternity assistants deputed for propaganda work on pre-natal care in the villages are paid a fixed travelling allowance of Rs. 15 per mensem and the expenditure is met by the local bodies concerned.

" (*b*) Yes, Sir.

" (*c*) No, Sir."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, has not the Chingleput District Board resolved to pay Rs. 15 per mensem as fixed travelling allowance to all midwives irrespective of the fact whether they are in an institution of modern medicine or indigenous medicine and, what orders have been passed thereon? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

Compulsory teaching of 'Tirukkural' in all schools in the State.

* 49 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any arrangements have been made for the compulsory teaching of 'Tirukkural' in all schools in the State; and

(*b*) whether the above subject has been included in the school syllabus and if so, how many hours in a week are allotted for the same; and if not, why the 'Tirukkural' scheme has been discontinued?

[13th May 1954

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education) :—" (a) & (b) According to the syllabuses framed for secondary schools, portions from Tirukkural should be included in the text-books in Tamil, used in Secondary Schools. No particular periods have been allotted for the teaching of Kural alone every week. Seven periods a week have been allotted for the study of Tamil. Tirukkural is taught within the periods allotted for the study of Tamil."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, has not Tirukkural specially been introduced in the school curriculum during the time when Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiyar was the Education Minister and, if so, why the scheme has been given up? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I do not think it is correct to say that Tirukkural was specially introduced in the curriculum. Portions of Tirukkural have to be compulsorily included in the text-books of Forms I to VI. The portions generally will be in one or the other of the text books approved by the text-book committee. Therefore, during these seven hours allotted for Tamil, Tirukkural is being taught."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, is the subject included as a subject for examination or is it only a subject of study? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Portions of Tirukkural are included in the text-books, and they have to be studied for the purpose of passing examinations. In that way and to that extent, Tirukkural has to be studied for passing examinations."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" What is the arrangement made, Sir, for imparting moral and religious instruction in our schools? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR :—" திருக்குறள் படிப்பது மாணவர்களுக்கு நல்லது என்று அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் கருதுகின்றாரா ? "

THE HON SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" அப்படிக் கருதாவிட்டால் பாடப் புத்தகங்களில் திருக்குறளைச் சேர்க்கவேண்டுமென்று அரசாங்கம் உத்தரவிட்டிருக்காது."

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR :—" பாடப் புத்தகங்களில் திருக்குறளிலிருந்து அதிகமான பகுதியைச் சேர்த்து மாணவர்கள் திருக்குறளை அதிகமாகப் படிப்பதற்குவேண்டிய ஏற்பாடுகளைச் செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் முயற்சி எடுப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" முயற்சி எடுக்கவேண்டிய அவசியமே இல்லை. ஏனென்றால், ஏற்கனவே எல்லா ஏற்பாடுகளும் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன."

13th May 1954]

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I know, Sir, if portions of Tirukkural have now been included in the Tamil books for Forms I to III, and, if not, whether the Government will kindly try to include these Forms also for teaching Tirukkural? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The information that I have is that portions from Tirukkural have to be compulsorily included in the text-books in Tamil for Forms I to VI."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, are not separate text-books available for Tirukkural? May I know why such books should not be prescribed instead of including Tirukkural in the Tamil text-books? " 11-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the Government think it is sufficient to include portions of Tirukkural in the text-books. They will be sufficient. It is not necessary to prescribe Tirukkural itself as a text-book."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that the inclusion of good literature in text-books by force or compulsion makes the literature lose its importance? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, compulsion is no doubt bad, but it cannot altogether be eliminated."

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI :—" சட்டசபை உறுப்பினர்கள் பதவி ஏற்கும் போதும் சட்ட மன்றங்களில் சாட்சியங்கள் அளிக்கும் போதும் திருக்குறளை உபயோகிக்க முடியுமா ?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I do not think it is right to consider Tirukkural as religious literature."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" I just want to put this question to the Hon. Minister. To compel boys and girls to study such a great book as Tirukkural will make them hate Tirukkural. I know, as a matter of fact, if you compel Christian boys to study the Bible they begin to hate the Bible even from their early years, and that hatred cannot easily be taken away from the boys. Therefore, do not the Government think that it would be better to persuade people to understand the greatness of Tirukkural than compel them to study such a great book? If they were to be compelled now, they would begin to develop a hatred for the book later on."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That question does not at all arise from the answer I gave to the main question. There is no such proposal and the hon. Member need not be afraid of the possible reactions to such a proposal."